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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Patent Application

Applicant(s): Michael John Coss
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Ronald L. Sharp

Case: 1-1-1
Serial No.: 08/927,382
Filing Date: September 12, 1997
Group: 2787
Examiner: Robert Crockett

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Signature: *Judith H. Ryan* Date: November 12, 1999

Group 2700

Title: Methods and Apparatus for a Computer Network Firewall with Multiple Domain Support

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated August 18, 1999, applicants submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 12, 1997 with claims 1-26. In the outstanding Office Action dated August 18, 1999, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,606,668 to Shwed (Shwed).

In response, applicants respectfully traverse the rejections to claims 1-26 for at least the reasons presented below. As will be explained in detail below, Shwed fails to teach or suggest the use of multiple security policies having respective rule sets as employed in accordance with the hierarchical approach of the claimed invention. Rather, Shwed employs a single rule set in the context of object groups.

The present invention is generally directed to methods and apparatus for providing a firewall service in a computer network wherein multiple domains and/or multiple security policies are